

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing a program code to a plurality of measuring instruments, each measuring instrument being respectively coupled to only one of at least one control computer via a respective first bus, with each of the at least one control computer being coupled to a central computer via a second bus, the central computer being coupled with at least one of a storage-medium reading device and an inter-regional network, said method comprising:

supplying the program code to the central computer by at least one of placing a storage medium on which the program code is stored in the storage-medium reading device and transmitting the program code to the central computer via the inter-regional network;

transmitting the program code from the central computer via the second bus to the at least one control computer; and

transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer to a measuring instrument coupled to the at least one control computer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
updating a measuring routine of a firmware of the measuring instrument coupled to the at least one control computer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first bus is a measuring bus or a serial interface.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second bus is an intranet over which the at least one control computer is coupled with the central computer.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inter-regional network is the Internet.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the storage-medium reading device is a CD-ROM reading device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining for which type of a measuring instrument the program code is intended based on a target address contained in the program code.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
~~mapping~~providing coupling information of each of the plurality of measuring instruments coupled to the at least one control computer ~~in to~~ a memory of the central computer;  
and

wherein in the step of transmitting the program code from the central computer to the at least one control computer, transmitting the program code based on a targeting information in the program code and the coupling information in the memory of the central computer.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
transmitting from the at least one control computer to the central computer types of  
  
measuring instruments coupled to the at least one control computer.

10. (Previously Presented) A system for distributing a program update, comprising:  
  
a central computer configured to receive the program update;  
  
a plurality of control computers connected to the central computer; and  
  
a plurality of instruments, wherein  
  
each instrument is coupled to only one of the plurality of control computers,  
  
the central computer is configured to transfer the program update to one or more of the  
  
plurality of control computers, and  
  
each of the plurality of control computers, upon receipt of the program update, is  
  
configured to transfer the program update to one or more of the instruments coupled to the  
  
control computer.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the central computer is  
  
configured to receive the program update through a memory media or through a network.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein each instrument includes  
  
a local memory and the each of the plurality of control computers is configured to download the  
  
program update to the local memory of one or more of the instruments.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein  
  
the program update is intended for a particular type of an instrument, and  
  
the central computer is configured to transfer the program update only to those control computers to which the intended type of instrument is coupled.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the central computer maintains information regarding instrument type and coupling of each of the plurality of instruments to the plurality of control computers.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of the control computers is configured to provide the central computer with information regarding instruments coupled the control computer.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the central computer is configured to determine the intended type of instrument for the program update based on an addressing information included in the program update.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing a program update, comprising:  
  
receiving the program update through a central computer;  
  
transferring the program update from the central computer to a plurality of control computers connected to the central computer; and

transferring the program update from the plurality of control computers to a plurality of instruments, wherein

each instrument is coupled to only one of the plurality of control computers.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of receiving the program update includes receiving the program update via reading a memory media or through a network.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of transferring the program update to the plurality of instruments includes downloading the program update to a local memory of each of the instruments.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the program update is intended for a particular type of an instrument, the method further comprising transferring the program update only to those control computers to which the intended type of instrument is coupled.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising maintaining information regarding instrument type and coupling of each of the plurality of instruments to the plurality of control computers.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, determining the intended type of instrument for the program update based on an addressing information included in the program update.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising executing the program code through the measuring instrument.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the program update is intended for execution by an updated instrument.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising executing the program code through an updated instrument.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer to the measuring instrument includes transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer to the measuring instrument selected from more than one of the measuring instruments coupled to the at least one control computer.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer to another measuring instrument coupled to the at least one control computer.

28. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of control computers, upon receipt of the program update, is configured to selectively transfer the program update to at least one of the instruments coupled to the control computer.

29. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of control computers, upon receipt of the program update, is configured to transfer the program update to less than all of the instruments coupled to the control computer.

30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of transferring the program update from the plurality of control computers to a plurality of instruments includes selectively transmitting the program code from one of control computers to at least one of the measuring instruments coupled to the one of the control computers.

31. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of transferring the program update from the plurality of control computers to a plurality of instruments includes selectively transmitting the program code from one of control computers to less than all of the measuring instruments coupled to the one of the control computers.

32. (New) A method for distributing a program code to a plurality of measuring instruments, each measuring instrument being respectively coupled to only one of at least one control computer via a respective first bus, with each of the at least one control computer being

coupled to a central computer via a second bus, the central computer being coupled with at least one of a storage-medium reading device and an inter-regional network, said method comprising:

supplying the program code to the central computer by at least one of placing a storage medium on which the program code is stored in the storage-medium reading device and transmitting the program code to the central computer via the inter-regional network;

transmitting the program code from the central computer via the second bus to the at least one control computer;

transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer to a measuring instrument coupled to the at least one control computer; and

updating a measuring routine of a firmware of the measuring instrument coupled to the at least one control computer.